

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01
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P R 242358Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3736
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1638

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, UN, SF, WA
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA BY UK AMBASSADOR
MURRAY

REF: KHARTOUM 1754 (NOTAL)

1. AFTERNOON OF MAY 24, UK MISSION PASSED TO USUN REPORT BY
AMB MURRAY ON HIS BRIEFING TO AMB KAMANA FOR THE COUNCIL FOR
NAMIBIA ON BEHALF OF THE WESTERN FIVE IN MAPUTO, EXPLAINING
THAT HE HAD NOT HAD TIME TO WRITE IT UP UNTIL HIS ARRIVAL
IN LONDON. TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE NAMIBIA:FIVE-POWER TALKS.

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1. AT A MEETING OF THE REPRESENTATIVES AT MAPUTO OF THE CONTACT
GROUP IT WAS AGREED THAT MURRAY SHOULD TAKE ON THE TASK OF
INFORMING KAMANA, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA,
THAT THE FIVE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM IN DUE COURSE
IN NEW YORK.

2. MURRAY DULY SAW KAMANA ON 19 MAY. KAMANA ATTEMPTED TO

FORMALISE THE OCCASION BY HAVING WITH HIM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUREAU OF THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA.

3. MURRAY GAVE KAMANA A GENERAL BRIEFING, STRESSING THAT THE CONTACT GROUP HAD HAD TWO OBJECTIVES, TO STOP THE TURNHALLE PROCESS AND TO OBTAIN SOUTH AFRICAN AGREEMENT TO FREE ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA WITH UN INVOLVEMENT. HE STRESSED THAT THE CONTACT GROUP REPRESENTED ONLY THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. THEY SAW THEMSELVES AS BROKERS AND NOT IN ANY SENSE NEGOTIATORS. THE FIVE RECOGNISED THAT THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE UN SYSTEM. THE FIVE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA'S ROLE IN FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. THE FIVE PROPOSED TO HOLD FURTHER MEETINGS IN NEW YORK AFTER THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE. THEREAFTER THEY WOULD WISH TO BE IN TOUCH AGAIN WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL.

4. KAMANA ASKED WHY THE FIVE HAD GONE TO WINDHOEK. MURRAY EXPLAINED THAT THE FIVE HAD REFUSED TO SEE A DELEGATION FROM THE TURNHALLE IN CAPE TOWN. BUT THEY HAD FELT THAT ALL PARTIES INSIDE NAMIBIA SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS AT THE SAME TIME AS SWAPO AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTACT GROUP HAD THEREFORE MET THE TURNHALLE, SWAPO INTERNAL, THE NATIONAL FRONT AND CHURCH LEADERS. THE FIVE DID NOT RECOGNISE THE TURNHALLE.

5. THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN SAID THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE MORE CONTACT WITH THE FIVE AND BE BETTER INFORMED ON THE NEGOTIATIONS THE COUNCIL WAS, AFTER ALL, THE

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ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY.

6. KAMANA POINTED OUT THAT RESOLUTION 385 SPECIFIED UN SUPERVISION AND CONTROL. MURRAY SAID THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD IN THE PAST BEEN VERY RELUCTANT TO CONTEMPLATE UN INVOLVEMENT. THEY REGARDED THE UN AS COMMITTED TO SWAPO. THE FIVE HAD TAKEN THE VIEW THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO SECURE THE RIGHT UN MACHINERY: THE UN WOULD HAVE TO BE SATISFIED THAT THE ELECTION REGULATIONS WERE FAIR AND THAT THE CAMPAIGN AND POLLING WERE BOTH FREE.

7. JAIN (INDIA) ASKED WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA HAD AGREED TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES BEFORE ELECTIONS. MURRAY SAID THAT THE FIVE HAD CONFINED THEMSELVES TO INSISTING THAT SOUTH AFRICA MUST DRAW UP A PLAN FOR WITHDRAWAL BY STAGES. JAIN ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. MURRAY SAID THAT THE FIVE HAD FIRMLY OPPOSED THE FORMING OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND HAD RESERVED THEIR POSITION ON THE IDEA OF A CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY.

8. SUMMING UP, KAMANA SAID THAT THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA WOULD NOT STOP ANY COUNTRY FROM EXERCISING DIPLOMATIC LEVERAGE. THE COUNCIL MUST, HOWEVER, BE CONSULTED AND HE HOPED THAT THIS MEETING WOULD BEGIN SUCH A PROCESS. IT WAS FOR THE COUNCIL AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO DECIDE ON THE KIND OF UN INVOLVEMENT NECESSARY IN NAMIBIA. THE QUESTION OF THE COUNCIL'S AUTHORITY AND ROLE IN NAMIBIA WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE AN IMPORTANT MATTER. THE FIVE WOULD DO WELL TO BRIEF THE COUNCIL EITHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY. THE COUNCIL DO NOT FAVOUR CONTACTS WITH TURNHALLE. KAMANA SAID IN CONCLUSION THAT HE WOULD BRIEF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AFTER HIS RETURN TO NEW YORK. MURRAY SAID THAT HE WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH.

9. SINCE MURRAY DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY AT THE END OF THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE TO BRIEF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTACT GROUP ON THIS MEETING, THIS SHOULD NOW BE DONE. THE COUNCIL
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OF NAMIBIA IS LIKELY TO PRESENT THE FIVE WITH A TRICKY PROBLEM. WE SUGGEST THAT IT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE FIVE IN NEW YORK. UNQUOTE
LEONARD

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